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NEWSLETTER

100-1175

29 September 1988

Washington D C

HURRICANE GILBERT SPARES SOUTH TEXAS THE WORST. Although we grieve for our friends in Mexico, San Antonio and other affected areas--we thank the Lord that **Gilbert** spared us his main fury and South Texas came away from this experience with just a few scars. It could have been devastating and we surely had a brush with fate last week.

Your Congressman weathered the storm in the Valley and we paid a visit to the Hidalgo County Emergency Response Center to show our support for the men and women who help us through natural disasters.

The County Judges here in the Valley and throughout South Texas, as well as the County Sheriffs, emergency medical teams, public utility employees, the Red Cross and Salvation Army were all ready and waiting if Gilbert came directly upon us.

We truly appreciate the high state of readiness and the professional disaster response mechanism we have in the Valley and South Texas. **All of you are to be commended for your dedication and bravery--**and we hope that it will be a long time before another such hurricane threatens our safety.

Your Congressman spoke by telephone with the offices of the Governors of the Mexican states of Yucatan, Quintana Roo, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas where Gilbert hit hardest. We offered any and all assistance (and help is being sent to the ravaged areas).

Help from good neighbors is always a two-way avenue, and the Secretary of Agriculture for Mexico, the Honorable Eduardo Pesqueira Olea, called me on the phone to offer whatever help his nation could afford us in the event Gilbert came across South Texas. The Secretary's call came before we knew that Gilbert would cut inland through Mexico. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for this display of Mexican friendship at a time when all of us were concerned about the storm's path.

Should any South Texans need my assistance in the wake of the damage that Gilbert caused in our area, this Congressional office is open, ready, willing and able.

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CONSTITUTION WEEK. The U.S. continues its celebration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States (signed by the great
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

patriots of our nation in 1787). From 1787 through 1791--a number of other events took place (formal state ratification of the Constitution and the addition of the Bill of Rights).

So our present-day events and ceremonies will continue through 1991 and we take a moment to mention that the week of September 19-23 has been designated Constitution Week. Your Congressman accepted an invitation from **Freshman High School** in Edinburg to speak before a student assembly about our Constitution and we had a great morning with all the students.

As I addressed the students, I emphasized those first words to the Preamble of our Constitution: "We The People...." The United States is a nation of inclusion--no matter your ethnicity nor your religion, no matter from where you came nor your background or your age, this nation recognizes you as part of those hallowed words "We The People..."

The U.S. Constitution covers you as a roof against a storm--making our nation unique as the pioneer country which first assembled a government under that **very special roof**.

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HOUSE TAKES ACTION ON FIFRA LEGISLATION. Last week, the U.S. House passed a bill which reauthorizes the **FIFRA** and which strengthens the nation's pesticide regulatory program. Your Congressman was keenly involved in this effort..

The House approved S. 659, **Amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)** [in last week's letter, I wrote an article about this legislation].

The FIFRA measure was originally introduced by your Congressman as H.R. 2463. It was attached as a substitute to the Senate Bill during our Committee mark-up session in order to speed up consideration of the measure in the Senate. Our action in the full House last week approves FIFRA, as amended, through fiscal year 1991.

This FIFRA legislation makes some important modifications in the way our U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves, and disapproves the effectiveness and safety of certain chemical pesticides used on the farm and ranch.

The bill--if ultimately signed by the President--will go a long way to improving chemical research and the use of modern pesticides to improve agriculture productivity.

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VISITORS FROM HOME. Honorable and Mrs Sid Williams III of Pearsall (Sid Williams is the County Judge for Frio County); Aida Escobar of Pharr.

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